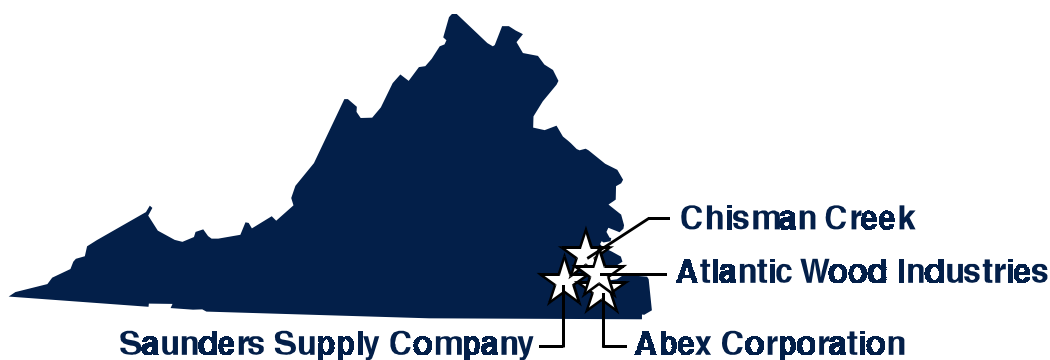


Returning Sites To Productive Use

Virginia Superfund Success Stories

- Abex Corporation
- Atlantic Wood Industries, Inc.
- Chisman Creek
- Saunders Supply Company



Abex Corporation

A new fire department headquarters, police station, and playground are under construction on the two-acre Abex Corporation Superfund site in Portsmouth, Virginia. A railroad foundry had operated on the property for 50 years. The disposal of foundry waste sands and emissions from the smelting furnaces contaminated on-site soil, residential yards, a small playground, and a rehabilitation center with lead, other heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds. In 1990, EPA added the site to its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup. An agreement was reached among EPA, Abex Corporation, the City of Portsmouth, and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority to design and conduct the cleanup and reuse activities. As part of the cleanup, 20 homeowners sold their properties to the City of Portsmouth, which is building the new fire department headquarters and training facility, police station, and playground on these properties. Now the families in Portsmouth can watch their children play safely without the fear of lead poisoning.

Atlantic Wood Industries, Inc.

The Atlantic Wood Industries, Inc., Superfund site occupies 48 acres in an industrialized waterfront area of Portsmouth, Virginia. The property was used to treat wood using creosote and pentachlorophenol from 1926 to 1992. A number of contaminants were found in soils, groundwater, and surface water. These contaminants posed a threat to on-site workers and aquatic organisms. In 1990, EPA placed this site on its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup. Although the cleanup is still underway, Atlantic Wood is continuing to use the site as a sales office and for the storage and transfer of its products.

Chisman Creek

The new softball and soccer fields of Chisman Creek and Wolf Trap Parks in York County, Virginia, demonstrate how a partnership between private and public sectors can lead to the successful cleanup and reuse of a Superfund site. EPA, York County, Virginia Power, and the local community teamed up to create a 31-acre recreational complex on the site. The abandoned sand and gravel pits were used from 1957 to 1974 for the disposal of fly ash, a by-product created by burning fossil fuels. EPA found groundwater and surface water to be contaminated with heavy metals, and, in 1983, it added the site to the Agency's list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup. After the site was listed, EPA developed a cleanup plan to eliminate contact with the fly ash and contaminated water, restore the groundwater, and protect nearby wetlands. The county, along with local residents and businesses, actively supported the reuse of the site as a recreational complex. Virginia Power carried out the cleanup, and working with EPA, the state, local officials, and the community, designed and built two recreational parks on the site. Today, the parks support 42 soccer and softball teams, ponds, and a County Memorial Tree Grove. The cleanup of the site also protects nearby ponds, a creek, and an estuary, and is part of a large water quality improvement that has led to the reopening of the Chisman Creek estuary for private and commercial fishing.



Saunders Supply Company

The seven-acre Saunders Supply Company Superfund site in Suffolk County, Virginia, was a wood treating plant until mid-1991. Today, it is a lumber yard. Between 1964 and 1984, a mixture of pentachlorophenol (PCP) and fuel oil was used as the wood preservative. In 1974, the chromated copper arsenate process was added. Improper use, treatment, and disposal of the chemicals resulted in contamination of on- and off-site soil and groundwater. In 1981, the Virginia State Health Department investigated a complaint from the adjoining property owner that a chemical liquid resembling wastewater sludges was found in postholes dug on his property. In 1984, Saunders Supply Company excavated contaminated material, and disposed of it in a landfill. The company also installed a recovery well, and used the recovered water as process water for wood treating operations. EPA discovered further contamination at the site, and in 1989, added the site to its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup. EPA then selected a cleanup plan which included on- and off-site disposal of contaminated material, soil incineration, groundwater monitoring, and deed restrictions. Cleanup actions at the site are now underway, and the lumber yard continues to operate.

For More Information

To learn more about the positive economic, environmental, and social impacts that have occurred at individual recycled Superfund sites, please write to **reuse.info@epa.gov** or contact:

Melissa Friedland
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(703) 603-8864

Or visit the EPA Superfund Program's web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/accomp/redevelop>

To learn more about the redevelopment or reuse of Superfund sites, write to reuse.info@epa.gov, or call the Superfund Hotline at 800-553-7672 or (703) 412-3323 (Washington, DC area).